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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 7 September 1948

SUBJECT Recent Activity of the PCCh Central Committee

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A6a

PLACE  
ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

DATE OF 25X1X6

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) has concluded that the long period of "legal activity" affected the Party adversely. Many old-line members, capable of carrying on illegal activity, were displaced by opportunists and intellectuals during that period.
2. Two prominent PCCh leaders have recently been in trouble with Party authorities. The disciplinary commission suspended PCCh Congressman Juan Vargas Huebla from his position on the Political Commission of the Central Committee and from the Executive Committee of the CTAL for drunkenness and lack of discipline. This decision was ratified by the Central Committee. Congressman Oscar Baeza Herrera was censured for the second time on the same counts.
3. Senator Carlos Contreras LaBarca, who has been in disrepute with the Party until recently, was renamed Secretary-General of the PCCh. Ricardo Fonseca, who was theoretically holding the post, will continue to be a member of the Central Committee. Contreras appears to have assumed the directorship of the Central Committee and is consulted on all Party decisions.

Document No. 1

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Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA R.G. 77/1763

Date: 5/5/78By: 009

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